

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 08039 261604Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----045612 261604Z /43  
O 261433Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3818

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8039

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR, IS, US  
SUBJECT: THE POLITICAL DIMENSION OF THE U.S.-ISRAELI CIVIL AIR  
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 7977

1. REFTEL SUMMARIZES A MEETING I HAD WITH MINISTER OF  
TRANSPORTATION MEIR AMIT ON JUNE 22 CONCERNING THE  
UPCOMING CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE DUE TO COMMENCE  
IN WASHINGTON JUNE 26. AMIT, WHO AS YOU KNOW IS A KEY  
FIGURE IN THE DMC'S CABINET CONTINGENT AND PROBABLY THE  
SOLIDEST FIGURE AMONG THEIR MINISTERS AT THIS STAGE,  
ASKED ME TO STAY BEHIND FOR A FEW MINUTES TO TALK  
PRIVATELY ABOUT THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE  
NEGOTIATIONS.

2. AMIT POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE NATURALLY VERY  
TECHNICAL AND IMPORTANT ECONOMIC INTERESTS INVOLVED IN  
ANY SUCH NEGOTIATION OVER AIR TRAFFIC RIGHTS AND  
FARES, BUT THAT THERE WERE ALSO ALMOST INVARIABLY  
POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO WEIGH AS WELL. HE SAID  
HE KNEW HE DID NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE TROUBLED NATURE  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 08039 261604Z

OF U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS AT THIS MOMENT, OR THE  
INTERACTION BETWEEN THE SOURING MOOD AND THE POSSIBILITIES  
FOR HIM AND OTHER MODERATES IN THE CABINET TO SUPPORT  
PROGRESS IN THE PEACE PROCESS. HE HOPED VERY MUCH, HE  
SAID, THAT THE U.S. COULD CONSIDER THE OVERALL POLITICAL  
CLIMATE ALONG WITH THE TECHNICAL ISSUES IN ITS APPROACH  
TO THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR

SPECIAL FAVORS, HE SAID, BUT RATHER THAT OUR DELEGATION BE SENSITIZED TO THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN ISRAEL AND THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT FURTHER SHARPENING IT INADVERTENTLY IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. HE STRESSED THAT THE GOI DELEGATION WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE FORTHCOMING AND TO REACH AGREEMENT, AND THAT HE HOPED OUR DELEGATION WOULD APPROACH THE TALKS IN THE SAME FASHION.

3. I FULLY REALIZE THAT WASHINGTON LIKES TO KEEP SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WHOLLY SEPARATE FROM THE OVERALL DIPLOMATIC STATE OF PLAY WITH A COUNTRY. I TRUST, HOWEVER, THAT YOUR SENSITIVITY TO THE MOOD HERE AND YOUR ELOQUENCE MIGHT HELP TO GET ACROSS TO THOSE CARRYING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEGOTIATION THE IMPORTANCE OF AMIT'S MESSAGE. I KNOW YOU CAN SEE THAT THIS SPECIALIZED PIECE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP CAN HELP OR HINDER THE WEAVING OF AN OVERALL WEB AT THE MOMENT. WE SHOULD TRY TO USE THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO INFLUENCE THE BROADER GOALS OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL AND THE PEACE PROCESS.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS  
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**Draft Date:** 26 jun 1978  
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**TAGS:** EAIR, IS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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